

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2012-2013 Interims

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Senator Orphy Klempa
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Delegate Larry W. Barker
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Final Report of
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Legislative Oversight Commission on Workforce Investment for Economic Development was appointed pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code §5B-2B-7, *et seq*, following the 2012 Regular Session of the 81st Legislature and continued their work during the 2012-2013 interim period. Pursuant to their statutory charge the Commission was to make a continued investigation, study and review of the practices, policies and procedures of the workforce investment strategies and programs implemented by the state.

During the course of the 2012 interim period, the Legislative Oversight Commission on Workforce Investment for Economic Development met and received information on these practices, policies and procedures and other important issues from state agencies, political subdivisions, advocacy groups and other pertinent sources.

The Commission **REPORTS** as follows:

Russell L. Fry, Director of WorkForce West Virginia presented an overview of the Commission's statutory charge at the initial meeting so that members were fully aware of their mission.

Throughout the year, the Commission heard from Russell L. Fry, Director of WorkForce West Virginia. Along with updating the Commission on various initiatives and projects related to workforce, Mr. Fry also reported about the status of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. Mr. Fry also discussed Executive Order 8-12, signed by Governor Tomblin, requiring drug testing for all Workforce Investment Act training participating, effective July 16, 2012.

The Commission also received updates from James L. Skidmore, Chancellor for the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia. Chancellor Skidmore provided an overview of the Learn and Earn Partnership between WVU at Parkersburg and DuPont and the Education-to-Work Program between Toyota and Bridgemont Community and Technical College.

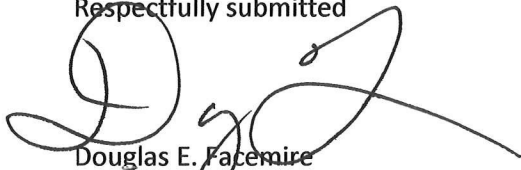
In response to the potential impact of the development of the Marcellus Shale in West Virginia, the Commission heard from Philip A. Reale, Independent Oil and Gas Association representative for the Natural Gas Vehicle Task Force, who discussed Marcellus Shale job availability and training in West Virginia.

The Commission also heard from Reverend Matthew J. Watts, President and CEO of HOPE Community Development Corporation, who reported on the current status of economic development, education and poverty in the state. According to Rev. Watts, West Virginia has a workforce participation rate of only 55%, which is 10% below the national average and the lowest in the nation. The Commission also heard from Dr. Paul Hill, Chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, and Rebecca McPhail Randolph, President and CEO of Vision Shared Inc.

During the January interims, the Commission toured the Toyota manufacturing plant in Buffalo, West Virginia. The Commission met with student participants in Toyota's Advanced Manufacturing Technician Program offered as part of the Education-to-Work program between Toyota Manufacturing and Bridgemont Community and Technical College. The commission also met with representatives of Toyota and Bridgemont CTC.

The Commission **RECOMMENDS** that they remain involved in various aspects of economic and career development that may occur as the Marcellus Shale is developed. They also recommend that they continue as statutorily required to investigate, study and review the practices, policies and procedures of the workforce investment strategies and programs implemented in the state.

Respectfully submitted



Douglas E. Facemire
Senate Chair



Doug Skaff Jr.
House Chair